

National Agricultural Summary

July 17 - 23, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Crop development remained more than 1 week ahead of normal across most of the Corn Belt and northern Great Plains, despite abnormally cool weather. In the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast, above-normal temperatures accelerated crop development and early-planted crops quickly ripened. Harvest was aided by mostly dry weather, with only scattered rain delays in

coastal areas of the Mississippi Delta and Southeast. Above-normal temperatures ripened small grains in the Pacific Northwest, where the winter wheat harvest accelerated due to dry conditions. Harvest activity also increased on the northern High Plains. Cool weather hindered crop development in the California valleys and along the middle and northern Atlantic coast.

Corn: Seventy-five percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, compared with last year's 65-percent pace and more than 1 week ahead of the 47-percent average for this date. Thirteen percent was at or beyond the dough stage, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and nearly 1 week ahead of the 7-percent normal for this date. Development was rapid across the Corn Belt and most of the central and northern Great Plains, despite well-below-normal temperatures. More than 40 percent of the crop entered the silking stage in Minnesota during the week, while about one-third of the acreage advanced to the silking stage in Colorado, Iowa, and Ohio. Acreage silking progressed 20 and 22 percentage points in Michigan and Wisconsin, respectively, but development remained slightly behind the 5-year average in both States. Acreage at or beyond the dough stage more than doubled in Missouri, to 42 percent. Along the Tennessee and lower Ohio River Valleys, slightly warmer weather aided crop development. Acreage at or beyond the dough stage tripled in Kentucky, to 30 percent. In Tennessee, 22 percent of the acreage entered the dough stage. A few fields progressed to the dough stage in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. None of the acreage was at the dough stage in Michigan and Minnesota. Conditions were mostly unchanged, while rain reduced moisture shortages in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska. However, significant moisture shortages remained in Nebraska. Elsewhere, cool weather reduced soil moisture evaporation and eased crop moisture requirements.

Soybeans: Seventy-four percent of the crop was blooming, 6 percentage points ahead of last year's rapid pace, and more than 1 week ahead of the 54-percent average for this date. Acreage setting pods advanced to 30 percent, compared with 23 percent last year and double the 5-year average. Although temperatures averaged well below normal, fields rapidly developed in the northern Great Plains as about one-third of the acreage entered the bloom stage in North and South Dakota. In Michigan, acreage at the bloom stage doubled to 32 percent, and acreage setting pods accelerated to 6 percent, but development remained well behind normal. Conditions were aided by mild temperatures and adequate moisture supplies in most areas, although serious moisture shortages continued in some areas, especially in Nebraska.

Small grains: The winter wheat harvest advanced to 87 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year and more than 1 week ahead of the 81-percent average for this date. Dry weather aided rapid progress in Michigan, as growers harvested nearly one-half of their acreage during the week. The harvest pace accelerated in the northern Great Plains, especially in South Dakota, where growers harvested almost one-third of their crop. In the Pacific Northwest, harvest progress also gained momentum. In Nebraska, the harvest was nearly complete, about 2 weeks ahead of normal.

Spring wheat and barley were 96 percent headed, about 1 week

ahead of last year and the average. In Montana, 11 percent of the spring wheat and 14 percent of the barley entered the heading stage, despite below normal temperatures. Two percent of the barley and 1 percent of the spring wheat was harvested. The spring wheat harvest was most advanced in South Dakota, at 7 percent. The barley harvest was most advanced in Minnesota and Washington.

The oat harvest was 21 percent complete, compared with 17 percent a year ago and well ahead of the 12-percent average for this date. Iowa growers harvested more than one-third of their crop during the week. The harvest pace was also active in Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

Cotton: Ninety-four percent of cotton acreage was at or beyond the squaring stage, while acreage setting bolls advanced to 66 percent. Development through both stages was ahead of the 5-year average and last year's slow pace due to above-normal temperatures that stimulated rapid growth. Nearly all of the California cotton was squaring, nearly 2 weeks ahead of the normal pace. In Oklahoma, acreage squaring was more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Cool, wet weather hindered development in Virginia, where boll setting was more than 1 week behind normal. Warm weather aided progress in the Southeast, but acreage setting bolls remained behind the 5-year average in Georgia and South Carolina. Scattered showers improved moisture supplies near the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, but moisture shortages stressed many fields in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Crop conditions deteriorated in Virginia due to abnormally cold weather.

Rice: Thirty-two percent of the crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year and the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures aided development along the western Gulf Coast, especially in Louisiana, where 14 percent of the crop progressed to the heading stage during the week. Temperatures were favorable for development in inland areas of the Mississippi Delta, but progress lagged in Arkansas and Mississippi. Below-normal temperatures slightly hindered development in California.

Other crops: Forty-six percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, about 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Fields rapidly entered the heading stage in the southern Corn Belt, despite below-normal temperatures. Nearly one-third of the acreage progressed to the heading stage in Illinois, while 20 percent headed in Missouri. Twenty-one percent of the sorghum was turning color, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Fields quickly ripened in the lower Mississippi Valley.

Seventy-five percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, 8 percentage points behind last year's pace. Hot, dry weather hindered development in along the eastern Gulf Coast, especially in Alabama. In Virginia, cool, wet, weather hampered progress.